



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY AIS PROGRAM READY FOR MAY 11 FISHING OPENER

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department's 2019 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program is ramping up to coincide with this year's fishing opener on Saturday, May 11. To celebrate Minnesota's fishing opener, Governor Tim Walz declares May 11th to be **Clean Drain Dry Day!**

The 2019 AIS plan focuses on the top priorities identified by area lake associations, citizens, and business interests including; boat landing inspections, decontamination units, treatment of Eurasian water milfoil, education & awareness and innovative special projects. Invasive species are a direct serious threat now to local economies and recreationists accessing public waters. Preventing and managing the spread of harmful invasive species is up to everyone. Watercraft inspectors will be active on boat landings within the county beginning Friday, May 10th, with 2019 total inspection hours to be around 16,700.

"Crow Wing County is home to some of Minnesota's best fishing and boating waters," stated Jacob Frie, Environmental Services Supervisor. "With our 2019 AIS plan, Crow Wing County is leading Minnesota counties in the effort to limit and prevent the spread AIS in our waters."

For more information please visit www.crowwing.us/ais This page includes interactive maps showing data on water quality, AIS, and county efforts to protect our water resources.

Draining all water, removing plants, mud and other debris, and inspecting trailers and watercraft as you move from lake to lake can minimize the risk of spreading AIS. Additionally, 21 days of drying time is needed before relocating docks, lifts, or swim rafts into a different water body.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or land.services@crowwing.us to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.